




# Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2010 . Oct. 1, 2009-Sept. 30, 2010

Michigan Department of Natural Resources . Wildlife Division





A vibrant red maple leaf is the central focus, lying on a bed of brown and orange autumn leaves. The background is a dense layer of fallen leaves in various shades of brown, tan, and orange, with some green leaves still visible. The lighting is soft, highlighting the texture of the leaves and the bright red color of the central leaf.

*The Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
is committed to the conservation, protection,  
management, use and enjoyment of the state's  
natural and cultural resources for current and  
future generations.*

*Wildlife Division Mission*

*To enhance, restore and conserve the State's  
wildlife resources, natural communities  
and ecosystems for the benefit of Michigan's  
citizens, visitors and future generations.*



# Table of Contents

Letter from DNR Director Stokes.....	4
Letter from Wildlife Division Chief Mason.....	5
Welcome.....	6
Did You Know?.....	8
Building and Sustaining Partnerships.....	9
Budget Information.....	13
Habitat Management.....	16
Species Management and Regulations.....	22
Threatened and Endangered Species.....	29
Wildlife Area Maintenance and Wildlife-Related Recreation.....	32
Wildlife Health.....	37
Privately Owned Cervids and Wildlife Permits.....	40
Planning.....	43
Research and Monitoring.....	48
Land Acquisition and Management.....	52
Public Outreach and Education.....	55
Training and Conferences.....	58
Business Tools and Support.....	60
Unanticipated Emergencies.....	62
Appendix A: Wildlife Division Funding Sources.....	64



May 2011

Dear Michigan Citizens,

Thank you for taking the time to learn more about the successes, challenges and long-term plans of the Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Division.

This report is a snapshot of just one year in the life of this hard-working division – a year in which many milestones were reached and important plans were set into motion. It is their best effort to offer you – our stakeholders and partners – complete transparency, as well as a behind-the-scenes look at the collective time, talent and experience that really make this division tick.

I have been a part of the DNR for a long time now, and I can say with full confidence that our Wildlife Division is home to many of the most passionate, knowledgeable and focused professionals you're likely to find anywhere in Michigan. And, though we as an agency are entrusted with managing and protecting Michigan's magnificent natural resources, we know – down to a person – that these resources have never and will never belong to us. We are merely their guardians for a short while, doing our very best to ensure their health and abundance for future generations.

As the DNR works toward providing top-notch service to every customer, broadening the base of support for outdoor recreation and increasing participation in the many, varied recreation opportunities that can be found here, rest assured that the important work of the Wildlife Division will be central to our effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rodney Stokes". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping "R" and a long, horizontal flourish extending to the right.

*Rodney Stokes*

*Director, Department of Natural Resources*



May 2011

Dear Michigan Citizens,

It's a new day for the Department of Natural Resources' Wildlife Division. We have a strategic plan and are realigning resources and funding to assure that the plan is successfully implemented. We have a featured species approach to management that emphasizes monitoring to determine effectiveness. We are working closely with partners and fostering the development of broad-based coalitions to achieve more durable conservation of wildlife.

But we can do more. No organization is greater than what it is doing today and what it plans for the future. The Wildlife Division aims to earn public trust and support on a daily basis.

This annual report is meant to clearly explain funding and other resource inputs to the division. We want to show how those funds and other resources are being used and to highlight conservation outcomes for wildlife in Michigan. You will see where we are achieving success and where we have yet to reach our goals. Trust demands full disclosure. The Wildlife Division expects and appreciates that the public will hold us accountable as its proxy, just as shareholders in a publicly traded corporation hold the corporation accountable. Wildlife is a resource to be enjoyed and protected by the people.

More than 70 years ago, Mr. Ben East wrote the Conservation Pledge, "I give my pledge as an American to save and faithfully defend from waste the natural resources of my country: its air, soil and minerals; its forests, waters and wildlife." The Wildlife Division continues to pledge its commitment to natural resources; I thank you for joining us in that mission.

Yours in conservation,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Russ Mason".

*Russ Mason, Ph.D.*  
*Chief, Wildlife Division*